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ABSTRACT

This informational memorandum is the first in a series of reports focusing on the SchoolNet initiatives. It describes SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and the Ameritech Agreement, presenting background information on their funding authorities, purposes, key players, organizational structures, and statutory timeframes. The report also describes how school districts access funding, the distribution of funding, the implementation of the technology, and the current status of each of the three initiatives. SchoolNet funds aim to supply every public school classroom in Ohio with at least one telecommunications connection capable of voice, video, and data transmission. Computers and related technology will also be purchased for 152 school districts in the lowest wealth quartile of the state. SchoolNet Plus earmarks additional funds for interactive computer workstations and other technology. The Ameritech Agreement describes that company's commitment to laying fiber-optic cable to every high school within its service area. Appendixes provide a pictorial overview of the initiatives as well as a chronology of previous legislative funding for technology in schools, including a list of education technology-related line items from Ohio State General Assembly operating budgets from 1990 to 1997. Information contained in the memorandum was made available by the Ohio SchoolNet office, various divisions of the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, the Office of Budget and Management, and the governor's office. (BEW)

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Description of SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and the Ameritech Agreement

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION OVERSIGHT
Columbus, Ohio
October, 1995

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The Legislative Office of Education Oversight (LOEO) serves as staff to the Legislative Committee on Education Oversight. Created by the General Assembly in 1989, the Office evaluates education-related activities funded wholly or in part by the state of Ohio. LOEO prepares research reports and information memos on topics selected by its Committee. Research reports provide conclusions and offer recommendations. Information memos are short descriptions of programs or issues.

Description of SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and the Ameritech Agreement

This information memo is the first in a series of Legislative Office of Education Oversight (LOEO) reports focusing on the SchoolNet initiatives. It describes SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and the Ameritech Agreement. It presents background information on their funding authorities, purposes, key players, and statutory timeframes. It also describes how school districts access funding, the distribution of funding, and the current status of each initiative.

Information presented in this memo was made available by the Ohio SchoolNet office, various divisions of the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, the Office of Budget and Management, and the Governor's office.

The SchoolNet initiatives described in this memo coincide with the overall goals presented in the 1992 State Board of Education's State Plan for Technology.

Ohio's investment in these new initiatives represents a considerable expansion in state funding for educational technology. The appendix to this memo provides a pictorial overview and a detailed history of previous legislative funding for technology in schools.

SchoolNet

Funding Authority and Purpose

Amended House Bill 790, the capital appropriation bill of the 120th General Assembly, authorized SchoolNet to provide the wiring for at least one "telecommunication connection" in every public school classroom throughout the state. Each telecommunication connection is capable of voice, video, and data transmission. SchoolNet provides the telecommunication wiring to connect classrooms within the same school building. SchoolNet does **not** provide electrical wiring, additional telecommunication wiring, or accessories needed by schools to make connections beyond their individual buildings.

Over a five-year period, SchoolNet will provide a total of $95 million in bond revenue to school districts throughout the state. Of the $95 million, $50 million is designated to pay for telecommunication wiring in all 100,000 Ohio classrooms, at a cost of $500 per classroom. School districts undergoing new construction and school districts ranked in the lowest wealth quartile of the state receive priority for wiring funds.

The remaining $45 million is designated to purchase computers and related technology for 152 school districts in the lowest wealth quartile of the state. SchoolNet will provide one computer for each of the 14,000 classrooms in these districts, at a cost of $3,200 per classroom.

Amended Substitute House Bill 117, the operating budget of the 121st General Assembly, appropriated an additional $26 million to SchoolNet. Professional development grants totaling $12.5 million will be awarded to Regional Professional Development Centers, universities, public television stations, media centers, and educational service centers (formerly county boards of education) to improve the use of educational technology in the classroom. An additional $2.5 million is appropriated for interactive instructional programming targeted toward

the needs of the 200 poorest school districts in the state. The remaining $12 million will be distributed as "equity grants" to low-wealth school districts for computer hardware, software, and professional development. These grants are a continuation of the Technology Equity grants awarded in previous bienniums. SchoolNet funding is summarized as part of Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1
Funding for SchoolNet Initiatives

Funding Authorization	Initiative	Total Amount	Specifications
Am. H.B. 790 (Capital bill) FY 1994	SchoolNet	$95 million in bond revenue	$50 million for telecommunication wiring; $45 million for workstations in low-wealth districts.
Am. Sub. H.B. 117 (Operating budget) FY 1996 FY 1997	SchoolNet	$27 million in General Revenue Funds	$12.5 million for professional development grants; $2.5 million for interactive instructional programming for low-wealth districts; $12 million in "equity grants" for low-wealth districts.
Am. Sub H.B. 117 (Operating budget) FY 1996 FY 1997	SchoolNet Plus	$125 million	$3 million for planning, administration; $122 million for workstations in K-4 classrooms.
Future capital appropriations bill	SchoolNet Plus	$275 million	$275 million for workstations in K-4 classrooms.
Ameritech Agreement between PUCO and Ameritech	Ameritech Agreement	$18 million plus fiber optic wiring	$18 million for grants; unknown amount for fiber optic wiring of high schools in Ameritech service regions.

Key Players and Organizational Structure

SchoolNet is a combined initiative of the executive and legislative branches. It was introduced by the Governor and supported through appropriations by the legislature. The complex organizational structure of SchoolNet reflects the interests of the various stakeholders involved. Exhibit 2 shows the governmental agencies and offices represented within each of these groups.

Exhibit 2
Groups Making SchoolNet Policy Decisions

	SchoolNet Interagency Council	Instructional Design Team	Technical Standards Review Committee	Technology Advisory Committee	Telecommunity Policy and Oversight Council
Superintendent of Public Instruction	x	x	x		
Department of Administrative Services	x		x	x	
Governor's Office	x			x	
Office of Budget and Management	x		x		
Ohio Department of Education: ▸ SchoolNet office ▸ Information Management Services ▸ Professional Development ▸ Policy Research and Analysis	 x x x x	 x x x	 x x x		 x x
OECN Data Acquisition Sites (formerly "A Sites")					x
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio	x			x	
Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission			x	x	x
House of Representatives				x**	
Senate				x**	
Schools			x		x
Telecommunication providers			x		x
Computer industry			x		
State university education deans					x
Special Education Regional Resource Centers					x
Public and instructional TV stations					x
Catholic Conference of Ohio					x
Education Service Centers (formerly county boards of education)					x

x - participation of one or more representatives
** appointments not yet made

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the assistance of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), is responsible for the implementation of SchoolNet.

The SchoolNet office within ODE is responsible for the management and coordination of SchoolNet activities as well as policy guidance to schools and educational service centers. Currently, the office consists of four full-time administrators and one support person. Additional intermittent assistance comes from the support staff of ODE's Information Management Services.

The SchoolNet Interagency Council provides policy guidance and direction for SchoolNet.

The Instructional Design Team assists in the planning of teacher training and the integration of technology into the classroom.

The Technical Standards Review Committee develops the standards used to ensure compatibility, uniformity, and interconnectivity of infrastructure and equipment between classrooms.

The Technology Advisory Committee advises the Ohio Department of Education on the distribution of SchoolNet funds to low-wealth districts. Created as a provision of Am. Sub. H. B. 117, its appointments have not yet been made.

Distribution of SchoolNet Money

Participation in SchoolNet is voluntary. To participate, schools must develop or have in place technology plans that identify strategies to improve teaching and learning. Plans must address the following four areas:

Learning and Technology: needs of students; how technology supports district goals; impact of the integration of technology on teaching and learning; expectations of students, parents and teachers; needs assessment of teachers' skills; and monitoring of the changing needs and capacity of the district.

Planning and Management: roles of administrators, teachers, parents, students, and the community in developing and carrying out the plan; supply of technology to meet the diverse needs of students and teachers across the district; and the ability to manage changes in technology through the reallocation of resources.

Evaluation and Revision: assessment and revision of technology plan; assessment of student learning and the use of technology by students and teachers; evaluation of the impact of the integration of technology into the school lives of students; and indicators of success.

Architectures to Support Technology: disbursement of computers and other technology; connection to other computers, buildings, and anyone outside of schools .

Districts submit their completed SchoolNet applications to the Ohio Department of Education, which uses regional evaluation teams to review them. School districts with approved plans forward all technical specifications and network configurations, including site layouts, directly to the contractor who will be responsible for installation of wiring.

Conditional approval is given to applications that need only minor additions to meet SchoolNet standards, with the understanding that these additions will be made. School districts

with conditionally approved plans receive assistance from their Regional Professional Development Center.

Implementation

Telecommunication Wiring. Of the $95 million appropriated for SchoolNet, $50 million was allocated for classroom telecommunication wiring: the purchase of wires and wire accessories, installation, and certification. An estimated $500 per classroom will be provided by the state for telecommunication wiring within each school. Districts must determine what additional electrical wiring and other hardware is needed, contract for its purchase and installation, and pay the contractors.

Most districts have some current computer connection to outside services, such as the administrative Education Management Information System, which is connected through the Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN). Often this connection is limited to computers in the district administrative offices. In order to create additional connections among a district's school buildings or to outside services, most districts must purchase additional equipment and software.

SchoolNet wiring standards were established by the Technical Standards Review Committee. This committee consists of representatives from Ohio Department of Education, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission, Ohio schools, cable and television industries, installation vendors, and consultants. The wiring standards ensure compatibility, uniformity, and interconnectivity of infrastructure, yet allow a wide range of technologies to be used in the classroom.

Minimum wiring standards include:

- Category 5 copper cable for voice transmission;
- Category 5 copper cable for data transmission; and
- Two 75 ohm RG-6 coaxial cables for video.

Schools may elect to exceed these standards. For example, a district plan might call for installation of fiber optic instead of copper cable. The Technical Standards Review Committee has determined that fiber optic cable exceeds the minimum standards. Therefore, that district must supplement SchoolNet funds with local funds to pay the cost difference between copper and fiber optic cable.

In May 1995, a competitive bid process selected Pomeroy Computer Resources to provide the specified wire. The contract for installation of wire and wiring accessories and the bundling of wire was awarded to Nordstan Communications Corporation in June 1995. The certification contract was awarded to Bradbern Corporation, a network cabling and design company. Certification will depend on random testing of a percentage of classroom outlets to verify that SchoolNet standards are met.

School districts may choose to use other suppliers; however, districts not using state suppliers will not be reimbursed in cash. Instead, they will be given "technology credits" that can be applied toward any future SchoolNet acquisition that meets their individual technology plan. Similarly, school districts with existing telecommunication wiring that meets or exceeds SchoolNet wiring standards will receive credit toward purchase of additional technology.

Workstations. Of the $95 million appropriated for SchoolNet, $45 million was allocated for the purchase of one interactive workstation for every classroom in qualifying low-wealth school districts. An estimated $3,200 will be spent per classroom. The Technical Standards Review Committee established minimum standards for classroom workstations.

The committee established workstation standards for both IBM or IBM-compatible computers and Apple computers. Schools may choose from either computer platform when configuring their systems.

Several companies were selected as work station contractors. Pomeroy Computer Resources will provide IBM-compatible Compaq computers. Unisys will provide its own IBM-compatible computer. IBM and Apple computers may be purchased directly from the companies through Ohio state contracts.

Professional Development. School districts must include a professional development plan as part of their technology applications. Districts can receive assistance in creating these plans from "Regional Communities of Practice" initiated by the SchoolNet office. Regional communities of practice are organized around Regional Professional Development Centers, but can also include educational service centers, universities, public television stations, media centers, and the Ohio Education Computer Network data acquisition sites, formerly known as "A Sites." Personnel from organizations within regional communities of practice help schools understand their technology needs, identify curriculum goals, and design strategies to meet those goals through the use of technology.

Prototypes. In January 1995, 14 "prototypes" that include 37 districts were selected to participate in SchoolNet. Prototypes range from single school buildings to entire districts to clusters of school districts. The prototypes represent different configurations of urban, suburban, and rural schools and demonstrate various levels of expertise and use of technology. Their purpose is to further understanding of the professional development, resources, and types of policies required for SchoolNet to succeed at a statewide level.

Prototypes receive wiring, professional development, and where applicable, computer workstations, ahead of the non-prototype schools. As a condition of selection, prototypes agree to work collaboratively with other schools; identify and commit resources to SchoolNet activities; remain flexible during the developmental stages of SchoolNet; and integrate technology into the curriculum.

Current status of SchoolNet. As of October 12, 1995, work orders for five prototype districts have been approved; no state-supplied wiring is yet complete. In addition, 44 SchoolNet applications have been received from districts that were not prototypes. Of these, 25 were approved and 12 were conditionally approved. Work orders for wiring have been issued in four non-prototype districts.

SchoolNet Plus

Funding Authority and Purpose

Amended Substitute House Bill 117, the operating budget of 121st General Assembly, appropriated SchoolNet Plus a total of $125 million. It is the intent of the legislature that an additional $275 million will be provided through the issuance of short-term bonds as authorized in the capital appropriations bill for FY 1997 and FY 1998. Thus, over a three-year period, a total of $400 million will be appropriated to fund SchoolNet Plus.

Amended Substitute House Bill 117 designates $3 million for planning, development, demonstration projects, and administration by the Ohio Department of Education. The remaining money will be allocated to school districts based on October 1995 ADM figures for students enrolled in grades K-4. Districts may purchase one interactive computer workstation for every five students enrolled in grades K-4. The estimated cost of each workstation is $3,500. SchoolNet Plus funds may also be used for computer hardware, software, equipment, training and services; two-way audio or video equipment; and textbooks.

A district's allocation remains available until the district is ready to use it. If a district already meets the minimum requirement of one interactive computer workstation for every five K-4 students, the district may purchase workstations for students in grades 5-12.

Key Players, Organizational Structure, and Current Status of SchoolNet Plus

The Ohio Department of Education has drafted rules for the administration and implementation of SchoolNet Plus. These rules are awaiting approval by the State Board of Education and the Technology Advisory Committee. They include application procedures, terms and conditions for participation, and technology specifications.

Ameritech Agreement

Funding Authority and Purpose

As a result of a license agreement with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), Ameritech has agreed to provide fiber optic cable to every public, private, and parochial high school within its Ohio service region. Ameritech will also contribute a total of $18 million in grants over a six-year period.

Ameritech and SchoolNet have developed the Ohio SchoolNet Telecommunity Project to coordinate technology infrastructure throughout the state. The Ohio SchoolNet Telecommunity Project will align the efforts of SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and Ameritech with the State Board of Education's State Plan for Technology.

Key Players and Organizational Structure

The Ohio Department of Education is responsible for the administration of the Ameritech Agreement. The Ohio SchoolNet Telecommunity Project will be administered by a project manager and overseen by a Policy and Oversight Council. The council consists of

representatives from the following: SchoolNet office, several divisions of the Ohio Department of Education, OECN data acquisition sites, public and instructional television stations, schools, for-profit telecommunication providers, state university education deans, Special Education Regional Resource Centers, Catholic Conference of Ohio, and education service centers. (See Exhibit 2.)

Distribution of Grants and Current Status

The Ohio SchoolNet Telecommunity Project will distribute $18 million to schools, to be awarded as grants. Five types of grants are available:

- Planning and administrative grants;
- Content grants;
- Network usage grants;
- SchoolNet telecommunity faculty grants; and
- Telecommunications grants.

Eligible schools must develop Interactive Distance Technology Plans that address the implementation of a networking system that is consistent with SchoolNet standards and goals. The networking system must go beyond the simple connection of classrooms within a single school building created by SchoolNet. Eligible schools include all state chartered public and nonpublic schools within the Ameritech service region as well as Ohio's School for the Deaf and School for the Blind.

Grants will be distributed to schools successfully completing the application review process. Priority will be given to low-wealth schools and SchoolNet prototypes. The amount of individual grants will be based on student enrollment. High schools will receive 75% of the telecommunity grants; no more than 25% of the grants may be awarded to schools that serve grades 1-8. The first of two rounds of grants is scheduled to be awarded in January 1996.

LOEO Concerns

The Legislative Office of Education Oversight interviewed many people involved with SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and the Ameritech Agreement to prepare this descriptive memo. During these interviews, several issues emerged.

Changes needed in school infrastructures. SchoolNet provides the necessary wiring to connect classrooms within the same building. Some school districts must make significant physical changes, such as electrical wiring, asbestos removal, or plumbing changes before SchoolNet wiring becomes useful. SchoolNet does not provide the funding for any of these changes. How widespread are these physical impediments to SchoolNet implementation? What options, if any, are available to school districts to ease the cost burden of making the structural changes necessary to use SchoolNet?

Telecommunication connections beyond school building. SchoolNet provides the capacity for schools to expand learning beyond the classroom, but only to other classrooms within that same building. An increase in the Ohio Education Computer Network funding will assist most districts to access learning opportunities beyond their own buildings. How many districts must pay for additional connections? How much do these connections cost? How can districts most economically expand student learning beyond the walls of their own buildings?

Readiness of teachers. Computer networks within schools can be valuable tools in student learning or they can be wasted collections of idle machines. How ready are teachers to integrate activities made possible by SchoolNet into their curriculum and instructional practices? Do professional development and training components of SchoolNet give teachers adequate support to integrate SchoolNet technology into their classrooms?

SchoolNet administration. SchoolNet is a combined initiative of the executive and legislative branches of Ohio government. Therefore, representatives of many agencies are involved in policy and implementation decisions. The SchoolNet office, however, is sparsely staffed. How does the combination of committees, councils, *ad hoc* gatherings of administrators, and a small staff affect getting the work of SchoolNet done?

Future funding. SchoolNet Plus intends to provide $400 million for computer workstations for students in grades K-4. Currently, only one third of that money has been appropriated. Who is affected if the remaining two thirds of the SchoolNet Plus funding is not appropriated in the next biennium?

Wiring standards. The SchoolNet Technical Standards Review committee selected copper cable to be provided in classrooms. Districts can install fiber optic cable at their own expense. What effects will this decision have on short-term and long-term costs to the state and districts?

Fees for Ameritech connections. As a result of the Ameritech Agreement with the Public Utility Commission of Ohio, high schools within the Ameritech service regions will receive fiber optic cable for telecommunication connections beyond the individual building. However, to use Ameritech lines, schools must pay connection and user fees to Ameritech. These fees are approximately $1,500 per month per building. For a few years some of these fees will be paid by Telecommunity grants. How will the schools eventually assume responsibility for them?

Eligibility for Ameritech services. Schools within the Ameritech service regions are eligible for $18 million in grants. How does this affect districts that are ineligible for these grants, because they are located outside of the service regions?

LOEO Study in Progress

As previously mentioned, this memo is the first in a series of LOEO reports that focus on SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and the Ameritech Agreement. The Legislative Office of Education Oversight will address these concerns as we complete the remaining reports:

Expectations of stakeholders for SchoolNet initiatives: What are the similarities and differences of expectations among legislators, administrators, teachers, and students concerning SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, and the Ameritech Agreement?

Readiness of schools and districts for SchoolNet: What portion of schools are ready to use SchoolNet and SchoolNet Plus? What are the impediments to schools' and districts' use of SchoolNet and SchoolNet Plus, once the wiring and workstations are installed?

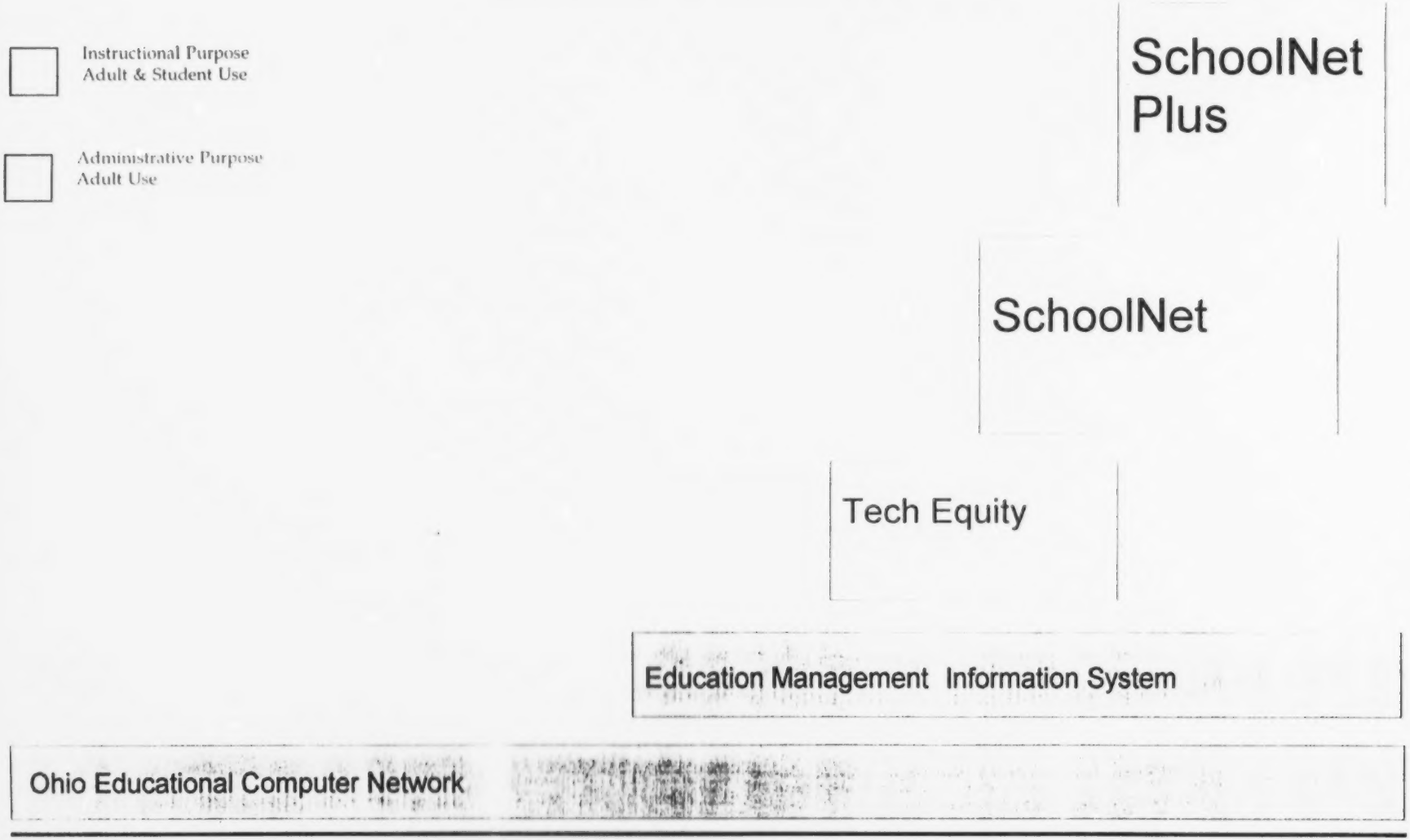
Use of Ohio Education Computer Network as the backbone of SchoolNet and possible alternatives: What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the OECN as the networking "backbone" of SchoolNet? Will this system, designed for administrative purposes, be able to support large numbers of students and adults using it for instructional purposes? What are the alternatives to using the OECN as the backbone of SchoolNet?

Interim memos will provide preliminary information on these topics. Upon completion of all stages of the study, LOEO will issue a comprehensive report on the SchoolNet initiatives.

Appendix

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION OVERSIGHT

Overview of Major State Funded Technology Initiatives
(Magnitude and Starting Dates)



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Ohio's History of the State's Investment in Technology for Schools

1979	Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN) was created to provide financial accounting services to all local, exempted village, city, county and JVSD districts. ODE was assigned the task of managing OECN through its Division of Computer Services and Statistical Reports (DCSSR). School district participation was voluntary and service areas were determined locally.
1984	The Multi-County Ohio Education Computer Network (MOECN) was formed to expand the uses of the OECN beyond basic financial accounting services. MOECN responsibilities were expanded to: provide schools with relevant financial data for more effective management; analyze computer services and determine the most cost-effective ways to use equipment and personnel; negotiate with vendors to purchase and maintain hardware and software; evaluate alternatives for generating and transmitting data between network sites and state agencies in an effort to reduce operating costs and improve the exchange of information; and serve as a liaison between sites and ODE. OECN eventually provided the framework for EMIS.
June 1989	Education Management Information System (EMIS) was created to increase the accountability of school districts to decision makers and the public. ODE was charged with the task of collecting financial, student, and staff data to allow comparisons to be made between schools and districts. EMIS was established to obtain uniform data to be used as input and output measures; determine efficiency ratings by relating operating costs to output measures; compare schools within and across districts; identify excellent and deficient schools and districts; and develop a flexible data base that could be manipulated to answer complex questions regarding Ohio public schools.
July 1991	Ohio Education Technology Equity Commission was created to design a "master plan," later titled Project Equity, to improve education via technology; priority was given to Ohio's low-wealth districts.
April 1992	Project Equity was granted $1,600,000 in funding by the Controlling Board for the Ohio Educational Broadcasting Network to determine

how distance learning and other technologies allow low-wealth districts to access curriculum and technology otherwise unavailable to them.

July 1992 — Project Equity was funded as part of Sub. H.B. 671 to examine how technology was being used in Ohio schools and to develop a plan for comprehensive improvement. The Ohio Educational Broadcasting Network Commission (OEBN) received $600,000 to conduct statewide surveys of equipment inventory and teacher receptivity. In addition, OEBN received $1,400,000 for the research, development, and production of an interactive instructional programming series; and $500,000 for production facilities and equipment for schools participating in the pilot projects using fiber optics for interactive instructional programming. ODE received $100,000 in administrative support and OEBN received $140,000. The remaining funds appropriated or transferred to Technology Equity were distributed by ODE in the form of grants to low-wealth school districts.

March 1993 — Technology Equity grants totaling $3,978,000 were awarded to 18 low-wealth Ohio school districts and consortia for FY 1993.

July 1993 — Technology Equity, line item GRF 200-409 of Am. Sub. H.B. 152, was appropriated $7,500,000 in FY 1994 and $8,000,000 in FY 95 for ODE to grant qualifying low-wealth school districts or consortia hardware, software, and staff development to support technology in the classroom. In collaboration with OEBN, ODE was appropriated $1,000,000 each year of the biennium to grant low-wealth school districts or consortia production facilities and equipment for interactive instructional programming, including fiber optics. In addition, ODE was granted $1,400,000 each year of the biennium for the research development and production of interactive instructional program series and teleconferences. Appropriated funding for GRF 200-409, Technology Equity, could be combined with appropriation item 200-688, Technology Assistance, to support these initiatives.

November 1993 — Technology Equity grants totaling $4,900,000 were awarded to fifteen low-wealth school districts and consortia for FY 1994 and $5,100,000 were awarded to twenty-five low-wealth districts and consortia for FY 1995.

July 1994 — SchoolNet was appropriated $95,000,000 over a five-year period. A Professional Development and Technology Training Committee was

appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to plan teacher training and the integration of technology into the classroom. A Technical Standards Review Committee was appointed by the Superintendent to help prepare the technical standards for SchoolNet.

CAP-738, SchoolNet-Education Technology Equipment, of Am. Sub. H.B. 790, was appropriated $45,000,000 for the provision of computers and related educational technology for each classroom in public school buildings in the lowest wealth quartile of Ohio school districts through a grant proposal process.

CAP-739, SchoolNet-Education Technology Infrastructure, of Am. Sub. H.B. 790, was appropriated $50,000,000 for the wiring of all public school buildings in Ohio. Each classroom in every building will be wired for at least one telecommunications connection that will allow for telephone service, voice, video, and data communications. Funding will be awarded through a grant proposal process with priority given to the lowest wealth quartile school districts.

To receive funding, schools must develop or have in place technology plans that met the minimum specifications and were in support of school district technology plans.

SchoolNet required the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) was to work with the Technical Standards Review Committee to develop technical standards for educational technology and infrastructure procured for school districts to ensure compatibility, uniformity, and interconnectivity. Funding may be awarded only for the purchase of educational technology equipment or infrastructure that meets the technical standards developed by DAS.

July 1995

SchoolNet, GRF 200-404 of Am. Substitute H.B. 117, was appropriated $12,848,000 in FY 1996 and $14,598,000 in FY 1997 to provide grants to schools for the provision of hardware, software, telecommunications services, and staff development to support educational uses of technology in the classroom. Of the appropriation, $6,000,000 in FY 1996 and $6,500,000 in FY 1997 is to be used for administration and professional development.

The Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission, (formerly OEBN) shall provide grants totaling up to $1,400,000 in FY 1996 and $1,400,000 in FY 1997 for research development and

production of interactive instructional programming series and teleconferences to support SchoolNet. The grants shall be targeted toward Ohio's poorest 200 school districts. Up to $50,000 of this amount in each year of the biennium is to be used for administrative costs. Remaining funds are to be distributed by ODE to low-wealth districts.

SchoolNet Plus, 4Y4 200-698 of Am. Sub. H.B. 117, was appropriated $125,000,000 to provide educational technology in the form of at least one interactive computer workstation for every 5 children enrolled in grades K-4. ODE shall allocate the appropriate funds to school districts by August 31, 1995. Districts may use part of the allocation for training and staff development related to the project. Applications for grants will not be approved unless the district can effectively and efficiently integrate the technology into its schools and curriculum.

By July 31, 1996, ODE shall determine the number of workstations that can be acquired with bond proceeds appropriated under the 1997-1998 Capital Appropriations bill and allocate the amount of such proceeds needed to provide that number of computer workstations to qualifying school districts. If money is left over, any "qualifying" school district may receive workstations as long as they pay at least 50% of the cost. Once all K-4 students have 1 workstation for every 5 students, the program will be expanded to grades K-12 in "qualifying" school districts.

An additional $275,000,000 is to be appropriated through the issuance of short-term bonds authorized in the Capital bill of the 121st General Assembly. Of the SchoolNet Plus line item, up to $3,000,000 may be used by ODE for planning, development, demonstration projects, and related department projects.

Education Technology Related Line Items 1990-1997[a]

Am. Sub. H.B. 111 (118th General Assembly)
Operating Budget

		FY 1990	FY 1991
GRF 200-426	Uniform School Accounting Network	9,935,065	10,376,632
GRF 200-446	Management Information System	3,600,000	3,600,000
GRF 200-510	Educational Television	4,342,903	4,381,259
GRF 200-519	Educational Media Centers	707,453	708,802
GRF 200-576	Technology Center	100,000	100,000
006 200-811	Classroom of the Future	1,000,000	2,000,000
138 200-606	Computer Services	2,450,000	2,523,500
596 200-656	Ohio Career Information System	426,799	438,644

Am. Sub. H.B. 298 (119th General Assembly)
Operating Budget

		FY 1992	FY 1993
GRF 200-409	Technology Equity	2,000,000	7,000,000[b]
GRF 200-426	Uniform School Accounting Network	10,361,556	10,361,568
GRF 200-446	Management Information System	6,500,000	7,000,000
GRF 200-510	Education Television	4,162,196	4,162,196
GRF 200-519	Educational Media Centers	708,802	708,802
GRF 200-531	Classroom of the Future	1,000,000	1,000,000
138 200-606	Computer Services	2,746,700	2,754,000
596 200-656	Ohio Career Information System	443,147	446,848

a The Ohio General Assembly has appropriated over $500,000,000 in technology-related initiatives from 1990-1997, including the $125,000,000 for SchoolNet Plus. This total does not include the estimated $275,000,000 to be appropriated through the issuance of short-term bonds which may be authorized in the Capital bill of the 121st General Assembly.

b Vetoed by the Governor

Am. Sub. H.B. 152 (120th General Assembly)
Operating Budget

		FY 1994	FY 1995
GRF 200-409	Technology Equity	7,500,000	8,000,000
GRF 200-426	Ohio Educational Computer Network	10,611,568	10,611,568
GRF 200-446	Education Management Information System	9,000,000	9,000,000
GRF 200-539	Educational Technology	4,870,998	4,870,998
138 200-606	Computer Services	3,420,000	3,570,000
596 200-656	Ohio Career Information System	469,638	484,436
017 200-688	Technology Assistance	7,500,000	8,000,000

Am. Sub. H.B. 790 (120th General Assembly)
Capital Appropriaton

		FY 1994
CAP 738	SchoolNet, Education Technology Equipment	45,000,000
CAP 139	SchoolNet, Education Technology Infrastructure	50,000,000

Am. Sub. H.B. 117 (121st General Assembly)
Operating Budget

		FY 1996	FY 1997
GRF 200-404	SchoolNet	12,848,666	14,598,666
GRF 200-424	Simulation System	428,121	428,825
GRF 200-426	Ohio Educational Computer Network	17,197,592	21,042,788
GRF 200-446	Education Management Information System	9,100,940	9,327,471
GRF 200-539	Education Technology	6,131,139	6,300,073
GRF 200-559	Interactive Parenting Program	1,250,000	0
138 200-606	Computer Services	3,809,000	3,933,000
596 200-656	Ohio Career Information System	501,343	518,934
4X1 200-634	Distance Learning	3,000,000	3,000,000
4Y4 200-698	SchoolNet Plus	125,000,000	0